allowed provision to be made for this expenditure in the confident belief that the House will accept its proposals to introduce a Sales Tax and to revise the rates of income-tax in such a way as to bring them into closer approximation to those prevailing in British India. We hope to raise about Rs. 4 lakhs by the revision of the rates of Income-tax, and Rs. 29 lakhs by the Sales Tax at one per cent, and so to balance the Budget.

With the beginning of work on the Poringalkuthu Hydro-Electric Scheme we may really feel that our Post-war Development Works have started. A special Engineer has been appointed for the execution of this work and has joined duty within the last few days. It is our earnest hope that progress on this scheme may be rapid and successful and that the completion of the project may be the prelude to great industrial developments. It had been my hope that the Post-war Planning Committees would have finished their work by this time; but this has not been possible and they still need some time to complete their labours. The Government however have thought it well to anticipate in some measure the report of these Committees and to make such provision in the Budget as will ensure that funds are available for such works as may be given top priority by the Committees. Work is actually being started only on projects regarding the need for which there cannot possibly be more than one opinion, *viz.*, the Hydro-Electric project and the T. B. Sanatorium.

I have made my speech short; for I understand that both Ministers intend to speak after me, and the Finance Member will as usual explain the details of the Budget later. It only remains for me to commend the financial proposals to the acceptance of the House as providing a start for those post-war developments to which we have been looking forward for so long.

Speech by the Minister for Public Health

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* Mr. President, Sir,

This is the second opportunity afforded to me to address this House as its representative in charge of the administration of the transferred subjects. With the end of the world war sudden changes are taking place in the political, economical and social life of the people throughout the world. Cochin and its people are also keenly experiencing the changes and developments all around. A notable event of the year is the ascension to the Gadi of His Highness Sri Kerala Varma. His Highness has by the epoch-making Proclamation of 21st March 1946 transferred a few more important departments to the control of the Minister and has promised to transfer more departments hereafter. His Highness has also appointed another Minister to share with me the responsibility for the administration of the transferred departments. The new Minister assumed his office on 15th May 1946, and till then as I was in sole charge of the administration of the departments, Public Health, Panchayats, Agriculture, Ayurveda, Veterinary, Village Courts, Co-operation, Industries, Uplift of the Depressed Classes and Fisheries, you will naturally expect from me a short review of the working of these departments in the past one year.

Public Health.—This year also there was an outbreak of small-pox in several parts of the State. It was not a peculiar curse to our State alone. The epidemic was more severe in the Taluks of Trichur, Talappalli and Chittur. Preventive measures suth as mass vaccination, disinfection of infected houses, etc., were done promptly and the disease was brought under control. Free distribution of rice and kerosene oil was made to the poor and deserving patients. To cope with the increased work in connection with the epidemic an additional staff consisting of a Homeopathic Physician, 6 Sanitary Inspectors, 23 vaccinators and 12 disinfecting coolies were appointed. To take advice on the further preventive measures to be taken, I summoned a meeting of the Advisory Committee for Medicine and Public Health on 27th February 1946 and, as advised by them, the mid-wives of the Public Health Department were given training in vaccination with a view to carry on intensive vaccination work. A Vaccination Training Class is also conducted by the Department. 84 candidates are undrgoing training now. Some of the local small-pox relief committees organised by selfless workers in different parts of the State had been heartily co-operating with the Public Health Department to arrest the spread of the disease and to render medical aid to the affected persons. I thank them all for the humanitarian work that they have done in this connection. Though plague made its casual appearnce in Mattancheri Town in Vrischigam this year, it was not allowed to play its havoc due to the timely preventive maasures taken. The anti-malarial operations carried on in the Nelliampathies are becoming more and more successful. This year the incidence of Malaria in those hilly regions has been

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

reduced considerably. Vadakkancheri and surrounding villages have become a prey to malarial attacks. Vigorous anti-malarial operations have been arranged to be carried out there. A Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector have been appointed for those places to attend to curative and preventive work. Anti-mosquito measures are being carried out in the towns of Ernakulam, Mattancheri and Trippunittura. Two Health Centres have been opened this year, one at Panamkuttichira in Trichur Taluk and another at Azhicode in Crangannur Taluk. These centres have begun to function in right earnest. With a view to provide additional facilities for mid-wifery service in rural parts, nine pupil mid-wives are being got trained this year. With the addition of these nine hands, there will be 75 mid-wives in the State to serve the rural areas. To abate beggar nuisance in the major towns, the Vagrancy Act XXI of 1120 is being enforced in Mattancheri, Ernakulam and Trichur. Proposals for the construction of permanent buildings for the relief settlement at Ramavarmapuram and the extension of sites for the settlements at Ernakulam and Mattancheri are under the consideration of Government. Arrangements have been made for the improvement of some of the insanitary roads and drains in Trippunittura Town. In Kunnamkulam town a decent bus stand with waiting shed is being constructed. At Pullut and Kanjani, the construction of bus stands and waiting sheds has been arranged for. In rural parts, one of the crying necessities is the provision of public latrines. I have arranged for the construction of public latrinee at Mulavukad, Kanjur, Chowarra and Cranganur.

In recognition of the right of every citizen to get himself protected from common diseases a sum of Rs. 27,26,900 has been set apart for Ayurveda, Public Health and Medical Departments for the year 1122. This allotment works out at 8·45 per cent of the anticipated revenue for next year. One of the common epidemic diseases that often causes panic in the State is small-pox. It is the ardent desire of Government to see that the havoc through this epidemic is not repeated. The most effective preventive measure that can be adopted against its recurrence is intensive mass vaccination. For this Government propose to increase the number of vaccinators. There are 26 vaccinators at present in the Public Health Department. 64 additional vaccinators will be appointed in the course of the next two years. For 1122 provision has been made in the budget for the appointment of 32 vaccinators. Another batch of 32 vaccinators is expected to be appointed in 1123. With these 90 vaccinators it will be possible to protect our people from the attack of small-pox. Provision has also been made for additional supply of lymph and vaccination accessories. To work out the schemes for eradicating malaria, it is proposed to appoint a Malaria Officer next year. In addition to the two health centres now functioning one more health centre will be started in 1122. It is my desire to see that it is started either in Mukundapuram or in Talappalli Taluk. Provision has been made in the next budget for the construction of 10 more public latrines in the thickly populated coastal regions of Elamkunnapuzha, Pallipuram and Kuzhupilly. Latrines will also be constructed at Kadamakudy, Kanjur, Perumanam, Viyyur and Erava. The Kalur night-soil depot has been a nuisance to the people of Kalur and the neighbouring places. There have been frequent references in this Council and outside to shift it from the present site. Two or three alternative sites have been suggested for its shifting. But the people of those places have also raised objections. I have, therefore, constituted a committee of officials and non-officials to examine the different aspects of this question. Their report is expected to be ready within a few days.

Panchayats.—In my last budget speech I had hinted that the new Panchayat Act would be brought into force this year. This has not been possible as the rules under the Act have not yet been finally framed and as there were persistent representations from the public and various representative bodies that the proposals for division of Panchayats into wards should be finally approved only after minute scrutiny. A committee consisting of M.L.Cs. and Ex-M.L.Cs. has therefore been constituted to go into the details of the requirements of the local public in the constitution of the new Panchayats under the new Act. Their work is expected to be completed soon and it may be possible to issue the Rules early next year. This year 90 clerks on Rs. 20—2—40 were entertained in the Panchayats to cope with the increasing activities of the Panchayats and to maintain their offices properly. These clerks are being given training in the Central Farm in Agriculture, Veterinary, First Aid, etc. One batch has already completed the training and the clerks have joined duty in the respective Panchayats.

The allotment of Rs. 3,25,000 sanctioned under Special Contribution for the year 1121 is being utilised for completing all the minor irrigation works already taken up with the special contribution allotments of previous years. A few new urgent works also were taken up from savings under Special Contribution allotment. Most of the works are expected to be completed

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

before the end of the year. The minor irrigation works taken up by the Government are found to be very useful. The fields served by these irrigation works were successfully harvested. It has to be stated with satisfaction that these works have enabled us to cultivate successfully extensive areas. It is proposed to conduct a survey of the actual area of land directly benefitted by these irrigation works. In some cases there was delay in the completion of the works. This was because of the fact that iron materials and cement were not available as and when required. Due to inadequate supply of good drinking water the people of Vypeen had been suffering in the past. To give them some temporary relief during the hottest parts of this year, arrangements were made to supply Alwaye water for their use on ration basis. Nearly 3¾ lakhs of gallons of water were carried to Vypeen in Junkar and was supplied at the rate of 1¼ gallons per head per day. In my last budget speech I had stressed upon the necessity of evolving a sustaining method of supplying good drinking water to littoral tracts from Vypeen to Pallipuram. On investigation it is found that tube wells will not succeed there. It is therefore proposed to supply these areas with Alwaye water. The scheme is proposed to be taken up soon.

To encourage rural library movement 20 new libraries were started during the current year, raising their total number to 218.

Agriculture.—With the termination of war and cessation of hostilities, it was expected that the food situation would naturally improve and that the import of rice from Burma would be resumed. But these hopes have not been realised. Food situation has really worsened. There was failure of crops in different parts of India. Our hopes of getting supplies from other parts of India have become more gloomy. Therefore to make the best of the bad situation, the food production campaign was most vigorously pushed through. Manuring of the Kole crop was undertaken on an extensive scale. An area of 1,400 acres of kole lands was manured with groundnut cake, bone meal and ammonium sulphate. A subsidy of 75 per cent in the selling price of manure was also allowed to kole cultivators. The results of this new venture were quite satisfactory. The ryots obtained 20 to 50 paras of extra paddy per acre. Estimated at a modest rate, about 40,000 paras of extra paddy have become available from the kole lands. A subsidy of 75 per cent was allowed in the selling price of manure for paddy and other food crops also for a period of six months from 8th March 1946. The proceeds by sale of manure in 1121 is expected to rise up to Rs. 4,00,000 and this figure would have been considerably augmented had it not been for the shortage of supplies, The Provinces and States from where we were getting down supplies have now banned the export of manures and we have now to depend mainly on the Tata Oil Mills Co., Ltd., Ernakulam, for supply of groundnut cake, the Imperial Government for supplies of ammonium sulphate and the Bone Factory at Trichur for bone-meal. The demand has now far out-stripped the supplies and the Government have, therefore, addressed the Government of Madras for an immediate supply of 1,000 tons of groundnut cake. Public in general have fully realised the value of manuring and have become manure-minded. This is a great achievement in itself.

With a view to augment the food supplies and also to produce as much protective food as possible during the period of scarcity, a Vegetable Production Campaign has been launched: The idea is to make every grower to produce vegetables in his compound, not only for his own use but also for the use of his neighbours as well. According to this scheme Government are supplying seeds and seedlings of vegetables and also manure to the extent of 25lbs. free of cost. Subsidies are also proposed to be given for sinking new wells and also for fencing new areas to the extent of Rs. 25 per acre. For tendering necessary help and advice in the matter of cultivation, a special staff of teachers trained in agriculture are appointed in all the Panchayats and Municipal areas of the State. With the co-operation of the Panchayats, the following seeds, seedlings, manures, etc., have been distributed so far.

Seeds	40,000	packets
Seedlings	3,50,000	numbers
Tapioca clumps	15,000	,,
Plantain suckers	10,000	,,
Colocassia and yam sets	55,000	sets
Vegetable manure	1,150	bags (81 tons)

The target aimed at is to bring an additional area of 5,000 acres under cultivation during the course of 3 seasons which should yield at least 15,000 tons of nutritious food to the people of the State.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The work done in the Nelliampathy Farm during the last 2 years has definitely shown that a large variety of fruit trees and vegetables could be grown there successfully. The oranges planted over an area of 100 acres are growing exceedingly well. The cultivation of potatoes and vegetables did not produce the expected results this year. A further area of 150 acres has been planted up with oranges. Food crops like Ragi, Cholam and other pluses are grown on the Nelliampathies on an extensive scale besides ptatoes and vegetables. The cultivation is progressing rapidly. A plantation of 500 acres of oranges would not only give plenty of nutritious fruits to the people of the State, but would also yield a proper return on the investment made.

The manufacture and distribution of agricultural implements were continued on a large scale and large number of implements like spades, plough shares, hatches, mhote buckets, etc. were manufactured and distributed to the ryots besides supplying raw material for fabrication. This year 233 tons of raw iron and steel were received through the Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controller, Madras Circle, of the value of Rs. 76,000. Fabricated implements and raw material for an equal amount were also distributed to the ryots. Implements were distributed not only through the Taluk depots but also through 31 Panchayats and 13 Co-operative Societies. The sale of agricultural implements at controlled prices was a great blessing to the ryots at a time of extreme scarcity of iron and steel in the country and it also acted as an effective check on the black market.

The position of cattle in the State still remains unsatisfactory. We have not been able to obtain the required numbers either for agricultural purposes or for milking purposes. Against an import of 2,000 animals during the pre-war days, we are now getting only a quota of 100 cattle per month from the Madras Province, and there is no immediate prospect of getting this quota further increased. The question of lifting the ban on the movements of cattle in south India Region is however engaging the attention of the Governments concerned, and as soon as this ban is lifted, the situation will become definitely easier.

The Dairy attached to the Goverment Central Farm is making progress and is supplying 250 lbs. of milk per day to the Trichur town. Due encouragement has been given to private parties in the matter of procuring good dairy cows and breeding bulls, and two dairies have been recently started in the suburbs of Trichur, one at Kurkancheri and the other at Mundur. These two together are now supplying another 250 lbs. of milk to the Trichur town per day. Twenty-seven Scindi cows were got down from Karachi and distributed to the people and arrangements are being made to import more numbers from Karachi. The Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India visited the State and certain schemes of dairy development prepared according to his instructions are now under the consideration of Government.

The Goat Dairy started at the Government Central Farm early in 1120 has made good progress and is now being run on a remunerative basis. The strength of the flock including kids and bucks is 80. Besides giving 40 lbs. of milk per day, the Dairy has produced a small number of bucks suitable for distribution as sires in the villages. The object of the Goat Dairy is not only to produce milk and meat food but also to evolve a type of high-yielding goats suitable to the State, the bucks of which are to be stationed as stud goats in different parts of the State for improvement of the local breeds.

A small piggery has been started at the Government Central Farm. Pure-bread animals of the Yorkshire (large whites) and Berkshire breeds have been purchased and they are being bred. The idea is to multiply these breeds and to distribute them in the villages for improvement of the local pigs.

The position of cattle-food is extremely acute. Bran is scarce on account of the restriction placed on the milling and polishing of rice and articles like cotton seed and gingeli cake are also scarce on account of the ban placed on their exports by the neighbouring Provinces and States. The State is getting only a very limited quota of these articles from Madras. Madras is giving us a quota of 300 tons of cotton seed and 250 tons of gingili cake per year in addition to what we are entitled to get in proportion to the kapas or seed cotton exported from our State. The States of Mysore and Hyderabad are helping us in this matter, and we are now getting limited quantities of cotton seed and gingili seed from these two States also. Considering the extreme scarcity and high prices of these articles the Government have offered a subsidy of 25 per cent in the price of groundnut cake used as cattle food and this is being availed of by the people.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

One of the great lessons that the late war has taught us is that each nation should try to be self-sufficient in the matter of food supply. This has necessitated an increase in the activities of the Agricultural Department. Even otherwise agriculture, being the main occupation and source of income of the people of the State, requires all possible encouragement at the hands of Government. Therefore, in the Post-war Development Schemes, agriculture has been given a very prominent place. Extension of area under cultivation, reclamation of barren soils, distribution of improved paddy seeds, establishment of demonstration farms, supply of manure, expansion of cultivation of commercial crops, improvement of irrigation systems, are some of the more important schemes contemplated in this direction. These schemes are being examined by the sub-committee appointed for the purpose. Independent of this scrutiny some of the more important items have been taken on hand by the Government. The Demonstration Farm in Chittur Taluk is proposed to be opened for which land aquisition has been set on foot. A scheme for opening a cocoanut nursery farm for the production and distribution of cocoanut seedlings of improved variety has been sanctioned for execution under the auspices of the Indian Cocoanut Committee. The Farm is proposed to be established at Irinjalakkuda. Action is in progress in regard to the training of the incumbant for the post of the Nursery Assistant (who is to be in charge of the Farm) at the Cocoanut Research Station, Kasarkode. Provision has been made in the next year's budget for the revival of marketing section of the Agricultural Department. Propaganda work and subsidy to encourage manuring of crop are proposed to be continued in 1122 also. The vegetable cultivation drive will also be continued.

From the nutritional point of view, animal husbandry is as important as agriculture. We in Cochin State have no famous varieties of livestock either for milk or for work. A comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for the improvement of cattle in the State within a reasonable period and that scheme is being examined by the post-war Development Committee. Next year a start is to be made in this direction by maintaining stud bulls of improved variety in 12 Panchayat areas at Government cost. A provision of Rs. 24,000 has been made for this in the budget for 1122.

To help the sugarcane cultivators of Chittur Taluk in the manufacture of jaggery, it is proposed to make available for them three mills and equipments next year. Most of these cultivators now depend upon the British agriculturits for the supply of these equipments.

Veterinary.—There was no widespread cattle epidemic this year. The sporadic outbreak of cattle diseases that was reported from rural parts was promptly controlled by the timely action taken by the officers of the Veterinary Department. As referred to in my last budget speech, with a view to extend veterinary aid, a scheme has been sanctioned under which stockmen compounders are trained in the elementary principles of veterinary aid. They will be posted after their training in the village parts. The first batch of 6 compounders are getting trained this year. The training will be continued next year. I have also an idea to get a batch of stockmen trained in Bangalore or Madras with a view to post them as officers in charge of Veterinary Dispensaries now existing and to be started hereafter. In the cause of veterinary aid hospitals will be constructed, one at Kozhinjampara and another at Pattikad next year.

Ayurveda.—By way of extension of the system of the Ayurvedic treatment in rural parts, five more Ayurvedic Vaidyasalas have been arranged to be opened at Ashtamichira, Edavanakad, Arakunnam, Puzhakkal and Pazhayannur. The Ayurvedic Vaidyasala at Pallipuram was raised into a minor hospital with four beds. To provide for the increased number of patients resorting to the Ernakulam Hospital, 10 additional beds have been provided in this hospital. An eye physician was also appointed in this hospital for the treatment of eye-diseases. For better non-official supervision over the working of the Ayurvedic Hospitals in the State, honorary visitors have been appointed to these institutions. As there are not regular nurses attached to the Ayurvedic Hospitals, arrangements have been made to train up a few nurses and to post them in the hospitals. A batch of 8 nurses are being trained for this purpose in the General Hospital, Ernakulam. For better efficiency and promptness in the working of the Sree Kerala Varma Ayurvedic Pharmacy a Business Manager was appointed this year and he was placed in immediate charge of the Pharmacy. In the first 8 months of this year medicines to the value of Rs. 69,975 were sold from this institution.

The long pending dispute between the Government and the Kerala Ayurvedic Samajam was settled by negotiation. The Kerala Ayurvedic Samajam buildings at Cheruthuruthy are still in the possession of the Military authorities. My proposal is to organise there a first rate Ayurvedic hospital with a herbarium attached to it. I am sure my colleague will take up this question immediately after the premises and the buildings are received back.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Co-operation.—The working of the Co-operative Department has begun to take a good turn. Hitherto credit side of the movement was given more prominence and this was subjected to severe criticism. Now, the store and industrial sides are being developed and steady progress is benig maintained. Co-operative societies are running ration shops. A net work of industrial co-operative societies is being organised in different parts of the State. The majority of applications received for registration are for either multi-purpose or industrial societies. The existing credit societies are also taking multi-purpose activities. This indicates a happy development both in the co-operative movement as well as in the social life of the people. The marketing of one of the major agricultural products of the State, namely, cocoanut, is being attempted through a cocoanut marketing society started at Narakkal with subsidies both from our State and the Indian Central Cocoanut Committee. The society is in its infancy. It can help the cocoanut growers considerably. If this society is able to solve the marketing of cocoaunt in Narakkal, there is scope for many more such societies in the coastal tracts of the State. I have already arranged for the starting of Coir Factories on co-operative basis in various parts of the littoral tracts extending from Chellanam to Kandassankadavu, with a view to help the coir industry of the State and to provide work for the poor labouring class in these areas. Six ex-service personnel who have the requisite general qualifications have been sent for a special course of nine months' training in co-operation, conducted by the Central Co-operative Institute in Madras. The fee of Rs. 100 per student is borne by the Government. Each student is also given a stipend of Rs. 20 per mensem. They are expected to be useful in the organising of societies for the ex-service men. An all Cochin Co-operative Conference was held this year at Trichur during Pooram week, in which distinguished co-operators from outside took part. The Conference was inauguarted by me. This conference has enabled the co-operators of Cochin to take stock of the work done and also to chalk out fresh lines of development of the movement. The recommendation of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee to have full time Secretaries for heavily worked societies was accepted by Government. Those credit societies with a working capital of Rs. 25,000 and above and other types of societies with a working capital of Rs. 15,000 and above, which could afford to have full-time Secretaries, were made to entertain such Secretaries. This system will enable the societies concerned to work more efficiently.

Industries.—Development of cottage industries on co-operative lines is being encouraged. A number of societies for various cottage industries have been registered. Thus weavers, carpenters, leather workers, jaggery makers, bee-keepers and khadhi workers have organised societies for development of their business. Government help these societies by providing them with paid secretaries, by giving them grant for initial expenses and by making advances towards working capital. The carving workshop attached to the school of Arts and Crafts is being run by Government. The bamboo mat industry in the Vijayaraghavapuram Colony is run departmentally. Organisers have been appointed by Government to develop cottage industries like bamboo mats and baskets and screw-pine mats and bee keeping. The manufacture and packing of scented arecanuts are being arranged in the Industrial Centre, Cherpu. An Industrial Assistant has been sent to the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, for training in the preparation of cholam and ragi malt. To train the jaggery makers in the manufacture of refined jaggery an expert is arranged to be got down from the All India Village Industries Association, Wardha. One of the Head-masters of the Industrial Schools was sent to Kuppam and Bhavani to study the methods of quilt and carpet making. He has returned after training, and manufacture of these items is being taken up. In the Industrial Centre at Cherpu the four societies of leather workers, carpenters, Khadi-weavers and country umbrella makers are working profitably. The shirting section in the centre was organised through one of the industrial assistants who was trained in Cannanore. It is proposed to convert this section into a co-operative society. Some of the industries like manufacture of photo-frames, lacegarlands and oil pressing in the Industrial Centre have been ordered to be run by the specialists concerned, who are now working there on their own responsibility. The marketing of cottage industries products is being attended to by the Cochin Cottage Industries Co-operative Marketing Society. It is sending out articles for sale to emporiums outside the State. This society, for the past few years, was finding it difficult to pull on with its slender resources. It was working at a less and had to knock at the doors of Government for its very maintenance. Last year, however, *i. e.*, in 1120, it worked with profit. The accounts for this year are not ready. It is expected that the society will be able to earn substantial gain this year also. Due to war conditions the industrial schools were having rather poor strength, but this year a slight improvement in the number of pupils who are seeking admission is obsefved. The organisation of co-operative societies for the ex-students of these

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

schools is progressing. In certain cases this is being done by converting these schools into co-operative societies. This experiment has been working successfully in Desamangalam and Kunnamkulam. Two other schools at Nemmara and Parappukara have also been ordered to be converted into societies for ex-students. The Civmil Centre has been converted into a Technological Institute. The Government Commercial Institute has not yet been recognised for the R. A. Course. It is expected that recognition will be obtained without much delay. The work of the Government coir depot at Mattancheri has been ordered to be taken up by the Central Coir Marketing Co-operative Society which has already been registered.

Uplift of the Depressed Classes.—In the uplift of the so-called Depressed Classes, the State has been taking much interest. When I took up the reins of administration I was very particular to see that their interests were safe-guarded and they were given as much help as possible to come up to the level of the other sections of the State's subjects. Providing of house sites to the Depressed Classes in colonies already established and in porombokes available for fresh settlement continued in 1121 as before. Facilities for drinking water to families who reside in these settlements have been provided for this year by sinking new wells, and deepening old ones, in 37 localities. 27 Co-operative institutions are functioning among the Depressed classes at present. Most of these institutions were started as credit societies. As experience has shown that credit societies are not the best sort of societies for the economic betterment of these communities a multi-purpose co-operative society has started work this year at Sivaramapuram with an elaborate scheme of economic activity among its members. A paid secretary and a lump sum grant of Rs. 5,000 have been given to this society. I believe that the economic betterment of these communities can be achieved to a considerable extent by promoting co-operative action among them. The majority being labourers, provision of profitable labour among them will be another source of help for them. Industrial centres are therefore being organised for these Depressed Classes. Of these one at Vadakkancheri is dealing with bamboo mats and baskets from where there is considerable export trade. At Nadathra, a similar centre is being run. The Vijayaragavapuram Factory manufactures and markets bamboo mats and clothes. The centres at Puduruthi and Herbertnagar, confine themselves with yarn and clothes. Economic betterment and provision of labour may not alone improve the social life. I am for encouraging education among them in all possible ways. 15,103 pupils were attending the Schools and Colleges from among the Depressed Classes in the year 1120. All of them are given free education besides the supply of school requisites and clothes. 377 students get stipends. Besides, two hostels are run directly by Government one at Trichur for girls and another at Ernakulam for boys. The Sri Ramakrishna Gurukula Vidyamandiram at Vilangans and the Sri Narayana Vidyarthi Sadanam at Ernakulam for girls are given boarding grants in respect of the Depressed Class pupils for whom they provide accommodation. The Depressed Class graduate sent for studies in Law has taken his degree and returned. Another is now prosecuting his studies in Law. This year two more graduates from among these communities have been selected for Law course in Benares University. Government are meeting all their educational expenses. The presence of a number of highly educated and cultured persons among them will surely help these communities to solve for themselves many problems confronting them at present.

It is proposed to reorganise the factories for the depressed classes at Vijayaraghavapuram and Herbertnagar and to start 3 more weaving factories one each at Anandapuram, Vanmeethy and Mathaipuram in 1122. As I have stated before, only a limited number of Depressed Class students in the Secondary classes are given stipends now. There have been representations in this council and the Education Code Revision Committee have also recommended that all Depressed Class students undergoing Lower Secondary and High School courses should be given stipends. It is proposed to extend this concession gradually and for this an additional provision of Rs. 4,500 has been made in the next year's budget. For adult education among the depressed classes 3 night schools will be started next year. These schools will be started in Chittur and Talapalli Taluks where the condition of the Depressed Classes is worse than in other Taluks.

Fisheries.—For the development of Fisheries much is being done by Government. The Fishery Department was reorganised and the Superintendent of Fisheries was given the assistance of 5 trained Inspectors to work under him. Though Cochin has no long sea coast, it has great possibilities for developing Fisheries especially by deep sea fishing. Two seaworthy motor fishing vessels have been purchased by Government from the Naval Department at a cost of Rs. 40,000. Arrangements are being made to fit them with proper crew. Fishing of shark by improved method of using new implements

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was encouraged. By the use of new implements in the first few months of this year, it has been possible to place in the market 12,000 lbs. of fish, 48 gallons of oil and 300 lbs. of cured fins. The fish farm at Narakkal was maintained as in 1120. The proceeds from the sale of fish from this farm have come to nearly Rs. 3,500. An experiment is being made to quicken the growth of fish in this farm by the use of chemical fertilisers. The candidate for fresh water fisheries, referred to in my last year's budget speech, finished his training in the course of the current year and has joined duty. He is now engaged in the survey of our fresh water areas. Another Inspector is engaged in the study of the socio-economic disabilities of the fishermen communities and to organise co-operative societies for them.

For the development of fisheries I have chalked out a large programme for next year. Deep sea fishing will be conducted on a large scale. A scheme has been prepared for the systematic exploitation of wider range of deep sea by employing a fleet of 8 indegenous boats and nets. To work out the scheme an additional provision of Rs. 22,000 has been made in the next year's budget. A new fish farm on the model of the existing fish farm at Narakkal will be opened at Malipuram. The Fish Farm at Narakkal will be extended to Nayarambalam and improved by dividing into sections. For the better curing of fish it is proposed to take up the construction of sanitary fish-curing yards at Narakkal, Malipuram and Nayarambalam. A new fish curing yard will also be provided at Nayarambalam. There is considerable scope for the development of fish oil industry in the State. Government have initiated this industry on a small scale. This will be encouraged next year. Six candidates will be sent up for training in the training institute at Tuticorin to work as teachers in the Fishery Schools. Our Government have agreed to join the scheme for fisheries research proposed to be undertaken conjointly by the Governments of India and Travancore. These schemes are formulated on a three-year basis. The total cost of the scheme is estimated at Rs. 4 lakhs towards which we will have to contribute Rs. 50,000.

Village Courts.—There was no change in the working of the Village Courts in the current year. The Village Courts were started in the year 1118. The improvement attained during this short period of three years, promises a bright future for these institutions. The average duration of suits in a village court is less than 2 months. In this connection I may recall that on the floor of this House there was a scathing criticism about the working of the Panchayat Courts some five years ago, mainly on account of the abnormal delay in the disposal of cases. The delay has been now considerably reduced. A general revision of the pay of the clerical staff of the village court with a view to place them on a par with the Panchayat clerks has been sanctioned.

There have been representations in this Council and outside to give conveyance allowance to the Judges of the Village Courts. A provision of Rs. 6,624 has been made for this purpose in the next year's budget in order to give a conveyance allowance at the rate of Re. 1 per sitting to the Judges.

Anchal and Registration.—Repeated representations have been received from the people of Erumapetty to open a new Registry Office there. I have realised that this is a long-felt necessity. A new Registry Office will be opened there early in 1122. There is an all-round complaint that the Assistant Registrars hold different and varying views in respect of the procedure relating to registration and filing of returns, etc., under the Company's Act. It is therefore proposed to centralise the administration of joint stock companies in the State in one officer as in Travancore and Mysore in order to secure uniformity in procedure and to avoid unnecessary delay and inconvenience to the public. The scheme will be brought into force in 1122.

New Branch Anchal Offices will be opened next year at Poyya, Thoppumpady, Velanthavalam, Edavanakad and Vadavucode. In order to ensure speedy delivery of anchal articles 5 more anchal men will also be appointed in 1122. Government have decided to change the design of current anchal stamps with a view to make it more attractive to philatelists. The new design stamps will be on the model of the new Travancore and Ceylon stamps, and they will be ready for issue early next year. Schemes are under way for introducing Revenue Hundi System and the Insurance system in Anchal Offices. Legislation to amend the Cochin Anchal Act to provide for these innovations will be introduced in this Session.

In my last budget speech I said that "a definite, detailed scheme for the general improvement of village life and to make the village life worth living has to be prepared". With that object in view I undertook extensive tours throughout the State, studying first-hand the needs of the villages. I directed all heads of departments to supply me with details of works to be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

done for the welfare of the people. And I constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon, "to draw up and submit to Government a consolidated and balanced 'Three-year-plan' to be taken up for execution immediately for improving the condition of life in villages, by selecting suitable schemes from the postwar plans under the consideration of Government and considering also the proposals of the heads of departments in this behalf". The Committee's report was received by Government only recently and it is being examined. However I may mention that 5 lakhs of Rupees has been set apart as a lump sum provision for Rural Uplift work and the uplift of the labour classes.

In my last budget speech I also referred to the "question of supplying good drinking water to the teeming population in the costal areas". I stated then that "though it is a difficult and costly problem to supply adequate good drinking water to the inhabitants in these areas there is no excuse for shelving the problem or postponing the decision". I mentioned further that it is worth-while "investigating deeply whether the rural population in the coastal areas could be supplied with good drinking water by boring tube wells". With the above object in view, I visited Alleppey immediately after the Budget-session and inspected the tube wells in existence there, I found them a success in Alleppey. And it was achieved there with very little cost. The matter was investigated by our engineering experts and it was found that the attempts in that direction might not result in success. Hence I agreed to give up the scheme on the distinct assurance given to me that the proposal to supply good drinking water to coastal areas would be soon taken up. And I am glad that provision has been made in 1122 budget for extending the pipe line to the southern-most end of Chellanam, I may also inform the Hon'ble Members that steps are being taken to provide good drinking water through submerged pipe-lines to the inhabitants of Mulavukad and other coastal areas including Vypeen. And I can confidently state that it is my expectation that necessary provision will be made in 1123 budget for such a supply. I said in my last budget speech that "in the meanwhile it will be examined if it is feasible and possible to supply Alwaye water by transporting it in barges or other conveyance to the localities where drinking water is a pressing necessity". In the previous portion of my speech I have already pointed out what has been done by Government in this direction. It is my intention to increase the quota and area of service during the next seasons, till a permanent solution is arrived at. This vital problem of good, protected, drinking water for the coastal areas was first solved partially by Sir Albion Bannerjee, the then Diwan of Cochin, by providing good Alwaye water for the town of Ernakulam about 35 years ago. Since then nothing substantial has been done except the extension of a limited supply of Alwaye water by pipe-line to Willingdon Island, Mattancheri and its neighbourhood. And I must acknowledge with satisfaction the readiness of our Diwan, Sir George Boag, in agreeing to tackle the problem to the extent indicated above, and also to completely fulfil the obligation of Government in this respect to the people of the coastal areas.

I have got other plans in view, of linking up these costal areas with the mainland of Ernakulam and providing them with wide and good roads fit for vehicular traffic, with a net-work of installations providing electric light and power for developing industries—major, minor and cottage—and improving agriculture. The usual stumbling block in the way of this progress is want of finances. If funds are not available, I think it will be a reasonable venture to raise the required amount by loans. A good return can be legitimately expected from capital works and other undertakings. The loan can be repaid to a very large extent from the income thus anticipated.

Though good drinking water and communication facilities are not so important in other parts of the State as in the coastal areas, the other amenities of rural life are more or less common to all villages. For instance, medical relief to the people of the State and particularly in villages is still very inadequate, though Cochin is ahead of our neighbours in this respect. I propose improving and extending the usefulness of the existing hospitals and dispensaries, besides providing some more dispensaries in other suitable and needy localities. I have received representations to the effect that the General Hospital, Ernakulam, is not in a position to cater fully to the needs and conveniences of the people of Ernakulam. Two more out-patient departments are necessary for this growing town, one in the north and another in the south. As funds do not permit the starting of both of them immediately, it is proposed to provide one out-patient department in 1122. It will be located in the southern part of the town There is no X'ray equipment in the Civil Hospital at Trichur. The people of the northern parts of the State are, therefore, put to much difficulty and inconvenience. To meet their requirements an

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

X'Ray plant will be fitted up in the Civil Hospital, Trichur, in 1122. The Mental Hospital at Trichur was until lately an asylum for lunatics. It has to be completely reorganised if it should serve any useful purpose for those suffering from mental diseases. It is necessary to provide increased accommodation there. It is also necessary to construct an operation room, an observation room and a mortuary. To construct these buildings, lands are proposed to be acquired in 1122 at cost of Rs. 25,000. Incidents of tuberculosis in this State have been on the increase in recent years. For want of sufficient facilities for treatment in the State many had been falling early victims to this disease. Only the very few rich could afford to go and seek medical aid in the T. B. Sanitorium at Madanappally and other places in British India. Even for those rich few who could afford to go to those sanitoriums, it is difficult to get admission and accommodation. Therefore, the starting of a good T. B. Sanitorium in the State has become a matter of urgent necessity. It is accordingly proposed to start it next year at Mulakunnathukavu. Dr. P. V. Bedjamin, Technical Advisor to the Tuberculosis Association of India, has examined the scheme and approvod the site selected. The Sanitorium will provide 150 beds to start with. A T. B. clinic is also proposed to be provided at Mattancheri with 24 beds. Provisions have been made in the next year's budget for all the items of expenditure required for the Sanitorium and Clinic. I also propose to open a T. B. Clinic at Ernakulam in 1123, if possible. The medical institutions will be supplemented with a few Health Centres, which will not be in close proximity to hospitals or dispensaries. The centres are intended both as preventive and curative institutions with a few inpatient beds attached to them, to afford immediate medical relief. The patients requiring longer and serious treatment will be transferred to Taluk Hospitals, Civi Hospital or the General Hospital as the case may be in fast and comfortable conveyances. Each such centre will have the necessary staff of medical officers including a Lady Assistant Medical Officer, Sanitary Inspector, a number of Health Visitors and an equal or more number of midwives, vaccinators, nurses, compounders, clerks and servants. Their field of operation is intended to cover an area consisting of about 50,000 people. Cases which require treatment in the hospital will be brought to the centre when the patient is not rich enough to get medical relief at his sick bed in his house. And from the centre if in the opinion of the medical officer the case is more serious or one requiring longer treatment, the patient is to be carried to a Taluk Hospital, Civil Hospital or General Hospital for further treatment. The officers attached to the centres will be prevented from private practice. And this prohibition, in course of time, will also be extended to all the medical practitioners in Government service. If however a rich patient is unwilling to seek medical aid either in a Hospital or dispensary or Health Centre, he will be given the aid at home on payment of fees to Government according to a prescribed scale and a reasonable conveyance allowance to the medical practitioner who is required to attend on him. Preventive measures will be taken free and, as far as possible, made compulsory. Every Health Centre will have a small Dairy and Poultry Farm just sufficient to meet the demands of the centre and other neighbouring medical institutions. Government propose starting three such centres in 1123, if possible—one in the southern, one in the central and the third in the northern part of the State. I have also in contemplation the idea of opening a convalescent hospital at Ernakulam and a ward or hospital at Trichur to relieve the congestion in the inpatient wards attached to the General Hospital at Ernakulam and the Civil Hospitals at Mattancheri and Trichur. Every Taluk in the State will be provided with confortable isolation hospitals or isolation wards attached to the existing hospitals.

The idea of shifting the general hospital to the Ram Mohan Palace building is under consideration. It is also my idea to have a separate women and children's hospital at Ernakulam. I am not in a position to make any definite statement on this subject. If medical service is to be nationalised and free medical aid is to be given, we want more doctors. We are not getting adequate number of seats for our students in the Medical Colleges in the Presidency of Madras and other parts of India. The idea of starting a Medical College for all Kerala and locating it, if possible, at Ernakulam or some one suitable centre in Kerala, if worked out successfully, will be blessing to the people of Kerala and a unifying factor. And I intend exploring the possibility of starting such a college, by personal contact and negotiation with the authorities of the Governments of Madras and Travancore.

In my last budget speech I mentioned that I had "in contemplation a scheme to provide decent dwelling houses to the middle class and the poor throughout the State". A committee was appointed to report on the scheme. Government propose to start building co-operative societies for the above purpose and start construction of dwelling houses on approved plans

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in all the municipal towns of the State. Government are also considering the question of extending the scope of the scheme to rural areas through the help of the Land Mortgage Bank or through Rural Building Co-opertive Societies. Anyway, I can assure the house that the problem will receive the serious attention of Government in the near future. This is in addition to the declared policy of Government to give subsidies to the so-called Depressed Class people for constructing houses and free grant of house sites, either poramboke or acquired.

In the post-war schemes of Government which are being examined speedily, great importance is paid to Agriculture, Dairy-farming and improvement of Livestock. It is hoped that Government would be able to push through these schemes as early as possible. I have in my extensive tours in the villages throughout the State found that many useful tanks intended for minor irrigation, bathing purposes and for the use of cattle have been neglected and allowed to be silted up. In some cases they have been assigned to private persons in connection with grow-more-food campaign, and many of the assignees have used them for land grabbing purposes. This policy of Government has been like killing the duck that laid the golden eggs. It has been completely stopped. I am sure my colleague will undertake the task of improving a good number of such tanks by spending a good portion of the lump sum allotment provided for this purpose in the budget for next year.

A commercially-minded journalist wanted me to state the profit and loss I made during my stewardship in the last one year. It has been a year of stress and strain due to the existence of war and the aftermath after its termination. One year is too short a period to show any substantial work. However, I have mentioned, though not in detail nor very fully what little I have done. I am not, therefore, appearing before you as the old Roman Warrior with laurels to his credit, but as a willing servant anxious to serve the State, its benevolent Ruler and its people, especially the poor and the depressed, not seeking any honour or reward. "Silver and gold have I none." I have not deposited them anywhere secretly, nor have I built any mansion for myself. But I can state with satisfaction that I have been depositing the wealth of service I possessed, in the words of St. Tertullion, "into the bellies of the poor people" of the State, planning also for housing them comfortably, feeding them properly and clothing them decently. My motto is service and more humble service. In my earnest desire and attempt to serve the people of the State, a section of the press has been helpful in offering constructive criticisms, which I acknowledge with gratitude. I welcome fair criticism of my administrative actions. But I regret very much to state that a small section of the press cared only for circulation, trying even to create class hatred, forgetting the substantial interests of the State and its people. It will not be out of place if I meantion here what Gandhji said a few days ago about journals which publish distorted facts and unfair criticisms. He said, "My advice to you is not to take these reports as gospel truth. The news-paper reports have very often been highly coloured. I do not therefore, think that you will lose much if you did not read these reports".

Our objective is to achieve real and substantial progress for the State and to ensure the welfare of its people. This can be achieved by the attainment of full Responsible Government. I can assure the Hon'ble Members and the people of the State that I will strive my utmost to secure this goal. And I will consider it the proudest day of my life and my highest achievement if I am able to get it for them. It will be my constant endeavour to advise His Highness the Maharaja that in the contentment of His Highness' subjects rest the welfare of his people and the glory of his throne.

Speech by the Minister for Development

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development)*: Mr. President, Sir, On the first Edavam 1121, I was appointed Minister and was given charge of the newly transferred departments. From out of these, Medicine, Anchal and Registration were transferred to my Hon'ble colleague and I got Panchayat, Co-operation, Ayurveda, Industries, Arts and Crafts. In fact I am glad these are transferred to me as I desired to reorganise and give them a new life. But I have to confess at this stage that I could not do anything worth the name, as most of my time was taken up by Labour.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly